

CLAIMS

1. An inhaler for delivering medicament by inhalation, comprising:  
a housing for holding a canister of medicament having a body and a valve  
5 stem compressible together to actuate the canister to deliver a dose of medicament  
from the valve stem;  
an actuation mechanism for compressing the canister;  
a cannister re-set mechanism comprising a locking element for locking the  
canister in a compressed state and a release member resiliently biased by the  
10 actuation mechanism on compression of the canister to release the locking  
mechanism to allow reset of the canister.
2. An inhaler according to claim 1, wherein the cannister reset  
mechanism further comprises a damping element for damping movement of the  
15 release member to delay the action of the resilient biasing to release the locking  
element a predetermined period of time after actuation of the canister.
3. An inhaler according to claim 2, wherein the damping element  
comprises a rotor disposed in a viscous fluid and driven by movement of the release  
20 member.
4. An inhaler according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said predetermined  
period of time is between 100 and 5000 ms.
- 25 5. An inhaler according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein  
the locking element is a knee joint having a locked position for holding the canister  
in a compressed state and the release member engages the knee joint to break the  
knee joint into a broken position for releasing the canister.
- 30 6. An inhaler according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein  
the actuation mechanism comprises:

a pre-loading mechanism for loading a resilient loading element with an actuation force using a loading member coupled to the resilient loading member and movable from a first position where the resilient loading element is relaxed to a second position where the resilient loading element is loaded, the resilient loading element being arranged when loaded to bias compression of the canister; and  
a triggering mechanism arranged to hold the resilient loading element against compression of the canister and to release the resilient loading element to allow compression of the canister.

7. An inhaler according to claim 6, wherein the locking element is arranged to lock the loading member in its second position for locking the canister in its compressed state after release of the triggering mechanism.

8. An inhaler according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the pre-loading mechanism further comprises a canister engagement member biased by the resilient loading element when loaded to compress the canister, the triggering mechanism engaging the cannister engagement member to hold and release the stored actuation force, wherein the release member is resiliently biased by a resilient biasing element acting between the canister engagement member and the release member.

9. An inhaler according to claim 8, wherein the cannister engagement member is a pivotable lever biased by the resilient loading element at a position further away from the pivot of the lever than the portion of the lever engaging the cannister.